

Message Text

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16

ACTION AID-59

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DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SWF-02 IO-14 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5042

INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5327

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN UTILIZATION PL-480 SORGHUM

SUMMARY: MISSION HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH DISQUIETING REPORTS OF RESISTANCE TO USING AS FOOD THE PL-480 SORGHUM THAT ARRIVED IN PAKISTAN AS PART OF US FLOOD REHAB EFFORT. FLOUR MILLERS IN PUNJAB AND NWFP REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN RESISTING MILLING AND BLENDING US SORGHUM AND IN PUNJAB PERSUADED PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES TO BACK OFF FROM REQUIRING MILLS TO BLEND SORGHUM WITH WHEAT. INQUIRIES MADE BY MISSION OFFICERS TO GOP FOOD SECRETARY ELICITED STRONG AFFIRMATION THAT GOP WOULD SEE THAT SORGHUM IS USED PER ORIGINAL INTENT. IT NOW APPEARS THAT ORDERS HAVE BEEN PASSED BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TO PROVINCES TO GET ON WITH SORGHUM UTILIZATION. MISSION CONTINUING TO MONITOR AND IF PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED, IT WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AS REGARDS INCLUSION OF SORGHUM IN FUTURE TITLE I PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION IS CONCERNED WITH POTENTIAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO UTILI-
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ZATION OF 40,000 MT US SORGHUM IMPORTED PURSUANT TO PL-480 TITLE I

SALES AMENDMENT OF NOVEMBER 2, 1973. THIS SORGHUM WAS MADE AVAILABLE BY USG TO SUPPLEMENT MEAGER 60,000 MT WHEAT THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN FY 1974. THE SORGHUM HAS ARRIVED AND 22,000 TONS CONSIGNED TO PUNJAB, 10,000 TO SIND AND 8,000 TO NWFP.

2. IN PUNJAB AND NWFP FLOUR MILLERS WHO WERE TO GRIND THE SORGHUM AS A MIXTURE WITH WHEAT ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT HAVE BEEN RESISTANT TO USING IT. IN PUNJAB MILLERS HAVE CHARGED THAT THE RED YELLOW COLOR AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS MAKE IT UNDESIRABLE

FOR MAKING LOCAL BREAD PRODUCTS. ALTHOUGH NATIVE WHITE SORGHUM GRAINS ARE CONSUMED IN PAKISTAN THE CHARGES INCLUDE THAT THE AMERICAN GRAIN IS ONLY FIT FOR ANIMAL CONSUMPTION. IN LATE MAY, IN RESPONSE IN PART AT LEAST TO MILLER RESISTANCE, PUNJAB FOOD MINISTER DECLARED TO PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD NOT SANCTION USE OF US SORGHUM AS AN ADDITIVE TO WHEAT. CONGEN LAHORE HAD ABLY REPORTED PRESS ACCOUNTS AND RESULTS THEIR INQUIRIES WITH FLOUR MILL ASSOCIATION.

3. MEANWHILE EMB OFFICER, HAVING HEARD FROM LARGE FLOUR MILLER THAT PUNJAB GOVERNMENT HAD RESCINDED ORDERS TO GRIND US SORGHUM, CALLED ON FEDERAL FOOD SECRETARY, M. YAKUB IN COMPANY USAID OFFICER.

4. MISSION REPS EMPHASIZED THAT SORGHUM HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO PAKISTAN FOR HUMAN FOOD AS PART OF FLOOD REHAB AND HAD BEEN DIVERTED FROM SAHELIAN RELIEF. FURTHER THE MATTER OF BARLEY EXPORT VIOLATIONS RELATED TO THE SORGHUM SALE HAD NOT BEEN SETTLED AND GOP WAS UNDER TRADE PRESSURE TO RESUME BARLEY EXPORTS WHICH, BECAUSE OF PL-480 RESTRICTIONS, COULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE SORGHUM UTILIZED.

5. ALSO IT WAS POINTED OUT FY 75 PL-480 PLANNING WOULD SOON BE UNDERWAY. FOR THESE REASONS IT BEHOVED GOP TO SEE TO IT THAT

PL-480 SORGHUM UTILIZATION MOVED EXPEDITIOUSLY. SECRETARY YAKUB INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD CONCERN, THAT GOP WAS ALIVE TO IMPLICATIONS AND PROMISED THAT GOP WOULD TAKE EVERY NEEDED STEP TO CONTINUE TO HAVE SORGHUM MILLED AND DISTRIBUTED.

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6. SUBSEQUENTLY IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT GOP FOOD MINISTRY HAS COMMUNICATED ORDERS TO PUNJAB TO MILL THE SORGHUM AND PROVIDE PROGRESS REPORTS ON UTILIZATION AS REQUESTED BY US REPS IN MEETING WITH YAKUB.

COMMENT: WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN IMMINENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOP AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES LAST WEEK MAY BE RESOLVED, BUT MISSION WILL CONTINUE REVIEW OF SITUATION. IF FURTHER DIFFICULTIES ARISE IN UTILIZATION PRESENT US

SORGHUM SUPPLIES, IT WOULD BE A FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT IF THOUGHT IS TO BE GIVEN TO INCLUDING SORGHUM IN ANY
FY 1975 PL-480 PROGRAMMING FOR PAKISTAN. IN MEETING CITED,
SECRETARY YAKUB EXPRESSED VIEW THAT GOP CONSIDERATION OF
SORGHUM IN FUTURE TITLE I PROGRAMS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT
ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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